

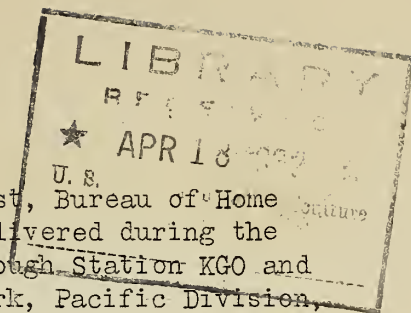
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CLOTHES FOR THE BABY

A radio talk by Miss Jean Stewart, Home Economist, Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, delivered during the Western Farm and Home Hour Friday, March 11, 1932, through Station KGO and seven other Stations associated with the NBC-KGO network, Pacific Division, National Broadcasting Company.



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The baby's job in life, as we all know, is to grow and develop properly. And for that job he needs plenty of sleep and plenty of exercise. Also he needs to be happy and comfortable. Comfortable clothing is important because it allows quiet sleep and plenty of freedom for exercising small arms and legs. Clothing specialists at the Bureau of Home Economics have been making a study of the right clothes for small folks under a year old. And a much-needed study that is.

Any mother today is shocked to think that babies once were dressed in swaddlin clothes or strapped in papoose bags. But the styles for infants of only a few years ago--even some styles today--are uncomfortable and behind the times. Such features as very long skirts, quantities of petticoats, frills or lace to scratch tender necks, tight necklines that cut and pull, opening down the back with many hard little buttons to lie on--these are a few of the things that the newer clothes for babies avoid.

Let me tell you about some of these new models. One on display at the Bureau is a little pale lavender dress with a lavender slip to go with it. The slip is sleeveless and in summer can be used by itself as a warm-weather frock. Yes, this outfit is soft lavender in color. The modern baby wears delicate shades instead of always dead white. These colors are becoming and give variety to the wardrobe.

This little lavender dress is cut on the bias and has a front opening all the way down. Dressing and undressing is much easier and pleasanter, both for the baby and the mother, if there is a front opening that goes all the way down. Old-style dresses had to be pulled on over the baby's head. And it was such a job to get each little hand through the tiny sleeves. It was another job to fasten all those tiny buttons in the back. The new dresses and slips are quite different. They can be spread flat on the dressing table. Then, all you have to do is to lay the baby on the garment and fold him into it. The simple way the dress is cut, the convenient sleeves and the front opening makes this possible. Once the baby is folded in, all you have to do is to tie two little tapes together and the baby is all dressed. The fastenings of these garments are tapes instead of buttons, hooks or snaps. Still another advantage of the front opening is that it makes laundering easy. These simple garments can be ironed flat. No frills to fuss over.

About the sleeves. They are short, wide at the bottom and cut raglan style. Raglan sleeves are roomy, allow for plenty of freedom to move, and don't tear under the arms as kimono sleeves are inclined to do.

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That's the advantage of having an infant's dress cut on the bias? First, it allows for freedom and fullness without uncomfortable gathers. That's a big point in the baby's comfort. Then, garments cut on the bias require less material than straight garments. That's a point for thrift.

I'd like to tell you about the other dresses on display in Washington at the Bureau of Home Economics but there isn't time today. You'll be glad to hear, however, that every one of these little models is easy to make and especially designed for the home seamstress. If you want directions for making some of these new garments for your baby's layette or for a baby shower, we have some mimeographed directions to send you. These directions are illustrated with pictures of the little dresses and with diagrams to show you just how to make the pattern and cut it out.

Write to this station for the mimeographed circular on clothes for the infant.